

STAINLAND-WITH-OLD-LINDLEY

URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1894.

ARTHUR E. WOODCOCK,

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.

STAINLAND :

J. L. EDWARDS, PRINTER, THE CROSS,

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

**To the Chairman and Councillors of Stainland-with-
Old-Lindley Urban District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report of the Vital Statistics and Sanitary condition of your district for the year ending December 31st, 1894.

POPULATION.

The population of the district as enumerated at the census in April, 1891, was 5002, and in 1881 it was 4933. Assuming that the rate of increase which prevailed between the last two censuses is still maintained, I have estimated the population to the middle of the year 1894 to be about 5025.

AREA.—2270 acres.

INHABITED HOUSES.

1112. Being an increase of 5 during the past year.

The excess of Births over Deaths for the year has been 9, the actual decrease in numbers being 25.

BIRTHS.

The number of Births registered within the district during the year 1894 was 86, of whom 46 were Males and 40 Females. The number registered in 1893 being 111, viz.:—60 Males and 51 Females, being a decrease of 25. This gives a birth-rate of 17·2 for 1894, as compared with 22·2 for 1893. The proportion of children born out of wedlock being the same as in 1893, viz.:—·6

DEATHS.

The number of Deaths registered during the year 1894 was 77, whilst the number registered in 1893 was 104, giving a death-rate of 15·4 and 22·0 respectively, you will probably remember that the death-rate last year was the highest the district has known since 1880, when the number reached 105. The present death-rate compares very favourably with other districts of similar population. The deaths occurring in children under one year of age and in persons over the age of 65, give nearly one half of the total deaths registered.

The *Respiratory Death-rate* is equal to 4·2 per 1000, as compared with 5·2 per 1000 in the year 1893.

WHOOPING COUGH.

This disease has been widespread in your district, and as the majority of the children are convalescent, there still remain odd cases. It was found very frequently at Holywell Green and Jagger Green, and in some instances adults were attacked, four deaths were registered in consequence. As I said before the Board Schools were closed on account of the prevalence of Whooping Cough and Measles, (which were co-existent) the deaths were in most cases due to Bronchitis, Convulsions, or some other complications. I pointed out to the School Authorities that complete isolation was

absolutely necessary, and not infrequently did I find that older children were allowed to attend School from the homes in which the infection existed, ultimately the Schools were closed, and the epidemic very soon showed signs of abatement.

ERYSIPELAS.

One case only has been notified, and the patient recovered.

DIARRHŒA.

One death has taken place from Diarrhœa, and several mild cases have been found, (the death occurred in an infant.)

PUERPERAL FEVER.

No case has been notified.

SMALL POX.

Our Small Pox Hospital has again been unoccupied during the year 1894. No case of Small Pox has been found in the district.

ENTERIC FEVER.

There have been two cases of this disease notified during the past year, of which one was fatal. The fatal case occurred at the Red Lion, to which place the person affected had recently come from the North, evidently bringing the germs of the disease with her, she complained of feeling unwell on her arrival, and shortly afterwards took her bed, from which she never arose. The other case was at Lister's Buildings, and occurred in a painter, there was in this case an admixture of Plumbism and Enteric Fever, the man worked at West Vale, and I think he contracted the disease away from home, he made a good recovery, in both cases thorough disinfection and stoving were resorted to, and every precaution used.

The *Zymotic Death-rate* gives 2·4 per 1000, as compared with ·8 per 1000 in 1893. I account for the increase, from the fact of our having had a very severe Epidemic of Whooping Cough and Measles in the district which necessitated the closing of the Schools at Sowood, and Holywell Green.

The *Infantile Mortality* (or death-rate among infants) has been 165 per 1000, as compared with 175 per 1000. The Infantile Mortality is influenced chiefly by Epidemics, as above shown, and therefore bears no ratio to the general death-rate. It is highest in those districts also where female labour is largely employed in manufactures.

MORTALITY AT GROUPS OF AGES.

The 77 deaths registered in 1894 are as follows :—

14 under 1 year of age.				
15 between the ages of 1 and 5.				
4	„	„	5	„ 15.
6	„	„	15	„ 25.
16	„	„	25	„ 65.
22 in persons upwards of 65 years.				

The Deaths from Zymotic Diseases were 12 in number, 3 occurring from Croup, 4 from Whooping Cough, 1 Measles, 2 Scarlatina, 1 from Enteric Fever, and 1 from Diarrhœa. When we consider that there were present at one time in our district 100 or more cases of Whooping Cough, and a similar number of cases of Measles, the deaths resulting therefrom are not at all excessive.

INFLUENZA.

Only very few cases of this disease have been seen in the district, and these were only mild in character, not being followed as in previous years with serious chest complications.

MEASLES.

This disease was very prevalent in an Epidemic form in the latter half of the year, so severe was the epidemic that I recommended the School Board Authority to close the Schools in the vicinity. Only one death was registered from Measles alone, as many of the cases were followed by its usual complications.

SCARLET FEVER.

There have only 2 cases been notified during the past year, one of the two proving fatal, the number will be found to be very low, as in 1893 6 cases were notified, and in 1892 8 cases.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Coldacre Reservoir has now been thoroughly tested, and has stood the test well, the quality of the water remains good. I have occasionally had one or two complaints that the water was not fit for drinking purposes, inasmuch as it was found that when boiled and used for infusing tea, the tea became dark colored, this I may say is caused by the presence of an iron salt, and is not a constant constituent of the water, moreover, it is perfectly harmless. I make allusion to this fact in order to set at ease any anxious consumer.

SANITARY CONDITION.

During the past year many improvements have been made re drainage, &c. There have been 38 Sinks disconnected, and 31 House Drains trapped, 15 Privy Middens have been constructed, and 10 Tub Closets. The late Local Board were successful in completing the arrangements for the emptying of Privies and Ashpits, all Closets, Privies, and Ashpits are now emptied by the District Council, and many evils consequent on the old system of the tenant being obliged to empty his own Ashpit, &c., have ceased to exist.

The Local Board took legal proceedings against Daniel Cooper, Horse Slaughterer, whose premises were situated on Lindley Moor, and were a decided nuisance and eyesore to the neighbourhood. They obtained judgment against the man, who was fined 40/- and costs, and the premises are finally closed, no license henceforth being granted.

There has appeared in our midst one, if not more, dogs, whose strange conduct led to the belief that they were suffering from rabies, several dogs in the district, about 12 in number, were bitten, and were promptly destroyed. Shortly afterwards another dog was seen in the village having a suspicious appearance, it was destroyed and a veterinary examination made, with the result that it was pronounced not to be suffering from rabies.

I have again to thank your Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances for his kind co-operation in all matters pertaining to the Health and Sanitation of your district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR E. WOODCOCK,

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. &c.

